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Region # 8

May 27, 2011

Fax: [REDACTED]

Attn: California Redistricting Commission:

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Mark Heavey and I am one of 250+ supporters that testified and we want our communities kept together. I am writing to urge your support of all of the Bay Area Maps being submitted by the California Conservative Action Group.

I support fair and competitive districts that fully comply with Proposition 11 with district geography criteria of natural geographical boundaries such as mountain ranges, bodies of water, of equal population and that comply with the Federal Voting Rights Act. I want my district lines to maintain district contiguity, and compactness by keeping cities, communities and neighborhoods intact as much as possible.

1. I strongly oppose the Sierra Club Bay Area plan that violates the Voting Rights Act and gerrymanders the TriValley.
2. I agree with the Sierra Club plan ONLY on the one point, not to cross the Bay and Golden Gate Bridges.
3. I reject the San Joaquin County Citizens for Constitutional Redistricting plan; they carve up the TriValley to create a San Joaquin district favorable to a tiny fraction of our Bay Area population.
4. I reject the Latino Policy Forum maps; they create an absurd district that jumps over the water to connect Marin, half of San Francisco and West Oakland in violation of the Federal Voting Rights Act.
5. I strongly oppose the California Institute for Jobs, Economy, and Education (CIJEE) plan and insist that districts not jump across the East Bay hills, because the communities from San Leandro to Milpitas have little in common with the Tri-Valley, and everything in common with each other. The commission got overwhelming testimony in the Oakland input hearings to this effect, both from Tri-Valley and from Oakland, San Leandro, Milpitas, Richmond, El Cerrito etc. to the effect, "Keep the Berkeley Oakland Hills as a natural geographic barrier between urban, ethnic, diverse communities west of the hills and suburban bedroom and office park communities east of the hills."
6. I strongly oppose the Institute for Jobs, Economy, and Education (CIJEE) gerrymander of Union City, an overwhelmingly Asian and Latino city along the East Bay shoreline that CIJEE links with the Tri-Valley communities such as San Ramon and Livermore. Union City is linked to its neighbors in Fremont and Newark by ethnicity, job patterns, and I-880. It has no connection whatsoever to Danville! Additionally, there was very clear testimony at the Oakland input hearing from community groups centered around the auto industry who did NOT want to be connected to Tri-Valley.
7. I strongly oppose the Institute for Jobs, Economy, and Education (CIJEE) plan forcing communities of Lamorinda and Pleasant Hill into a district with Berkeley, as was done in 1981, and is being resurrected by CIJEE. The Berkeley-Oakland area is different in every demographic respect from the suburban communities on the other side of the mountains.

8. I strongly oppose the Institute for Jobs, Economy, and Education (CIJEE) plan gerrymandering that put the mid-Peninsula area around Palo Alto with the city of Santa Cruz - a city on the other side of a mountain range, in a different county, and on the ocean.
9. I strongly oppose the Institute for Jobs, Economy, and Education (CIJEE) plan which splits the Latino community in San Jose into two Assembly districts, although it should be kept together in one district.
10. I strongly oppose the Institute for Jobs, Economy, and Education (CIJEE) plan for Marin. Any AD based in Marin should expand north along Hwy 101, to reach people who work in Marin. It should not be gerrymandered far east to Benicia, which it has nothing in common with.
11. I strongly oppose the Institute for Jobs, Economy, and Education (CIJEE) plan which merges North Bay districts with SF districts. We insist that the North Bay districts be kept separate from the SF districts.
12. I reject the Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans for Fair Redistricting CAPAFR plan. Specifically but not limited to joining Fremont with The TriValley: the City of Pleasanton.
13. I reject the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) plan for violations of the Voter Rights Act and abusive gerrymandering. So ridiculous that one commissioner spoke out during MALDEF's presentation on 5/26 in Northridge stating "Why so many Gerrymander Fingers?"

Thank you,  
Mark Heavey

